United Nations S/2012/37

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 January 2012

Original: English

## Letter dated 16 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write to express the United States Government's grave concern about the worsening humanitarian crisis in the Sudanese states of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. The United Nations estimates that 500,000 people are severely affected by the conflict in the two areas, including some who have been forced to flee their homes and seek safety in South Sudan and Ethiopia and some who have become displaced within their own country. Ongoing fighting has severely constrained the movement of civilians to plant and harvest.

At the same time, United Nations humanitarian agencies and international non-governmental organizations have largely been prevented from accessing Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States since the conflict erupted last year. It is clear that the Government of the Sudan has instituted a deliberate policy to prevent humanitarian agencies from reaching vulnerable civilians impacted by the conflict. The conflict's disruption of trade and livelihoods, large-scale displacement of people and severe restrictions on the operations of aid agencies have pushed the people of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile to the brink of a major humanitarian crisis.

Expert food security analysts are now forecasting that, absent substantial new aid flows into these two Sudanese states, food security there will deteriorate by March 2012 to "phase 4/emergency" status, as shown in the attached map entitled "Two areas: projected food insecurity, March 2012" (see annex). Our analysis is publicly available and based on regular reports from the Government of the Sudan, international humanitarian organizations and private commercial traders. Under these circumstances, households will be unable to meet their most basic food needs, resulting in very high acute malnutrition, excess mortality and extreme loss of livelihood assets. This internationally recognized phase 4 classification is just one step away from the most severe form of crisis, namely, a catastrophe or famine. The only other regions in the world currently expected to reach phase 4/emergency levels are in Somalia and Ethiopia.

It is the United States Government's firm belief that, if the Government of the Sudan does not allow immediate and meaningful humanitarian access to the conflict zones in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile so that life-saving humanitarian assistance can be provided to civilians in need, we will likely see famine conditions in parts of the Sudan. A humanitarian disaster of this magnitude is unacceptable in



Please recycle

any circumstance. It is particularly shameful when the path to averting the large-scale loss of innocent lives is so clear. This crisis could be addressed by the Government of the Sudan if it were to allow the United Nations and other relief organizations immediate and unimpeded access to vulnerable civilians across Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Susan E. **Rice**

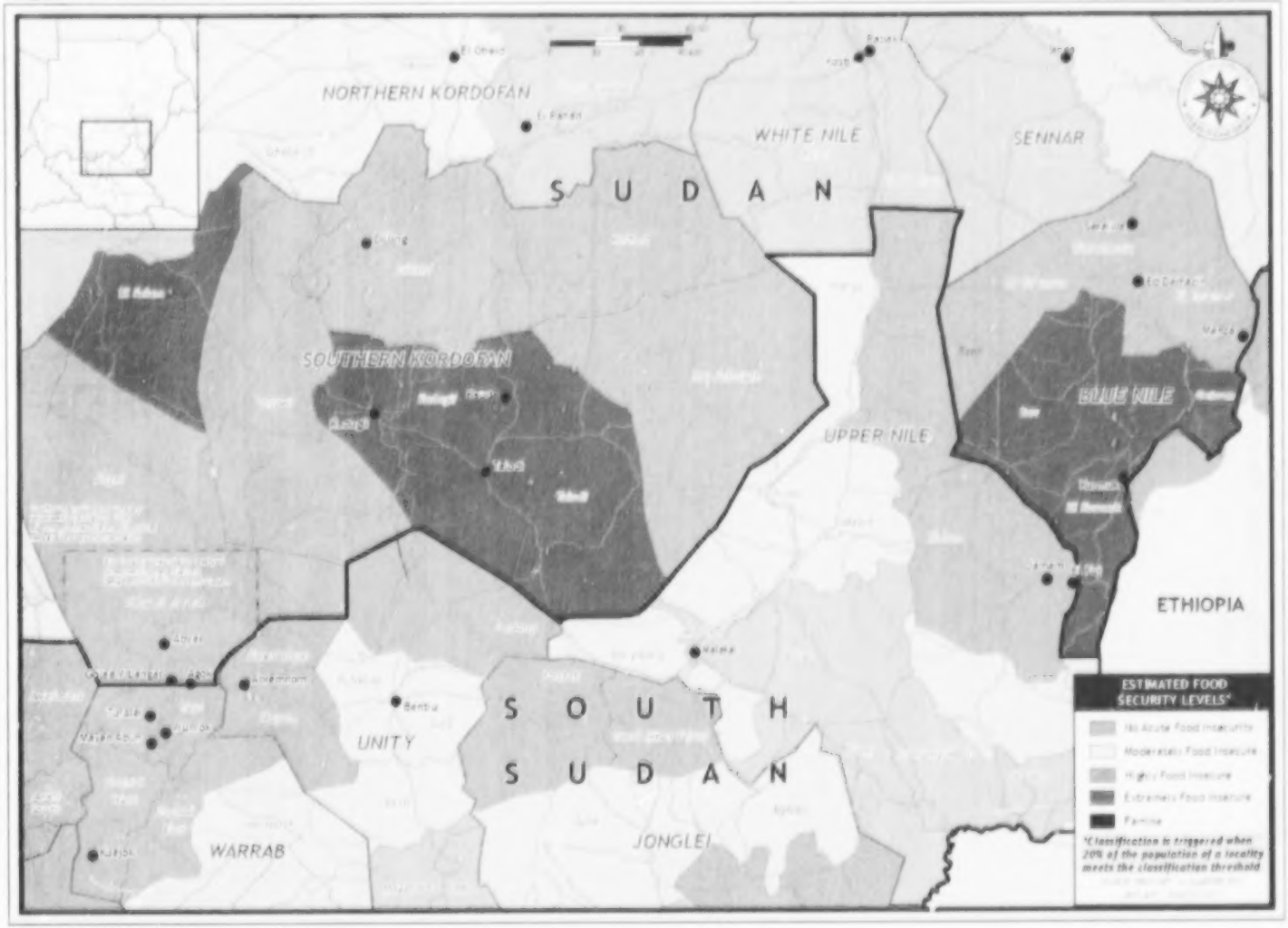
**Annex to the letter dated 16 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council***

*Source*: Famine Early Warning System Network.

* The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

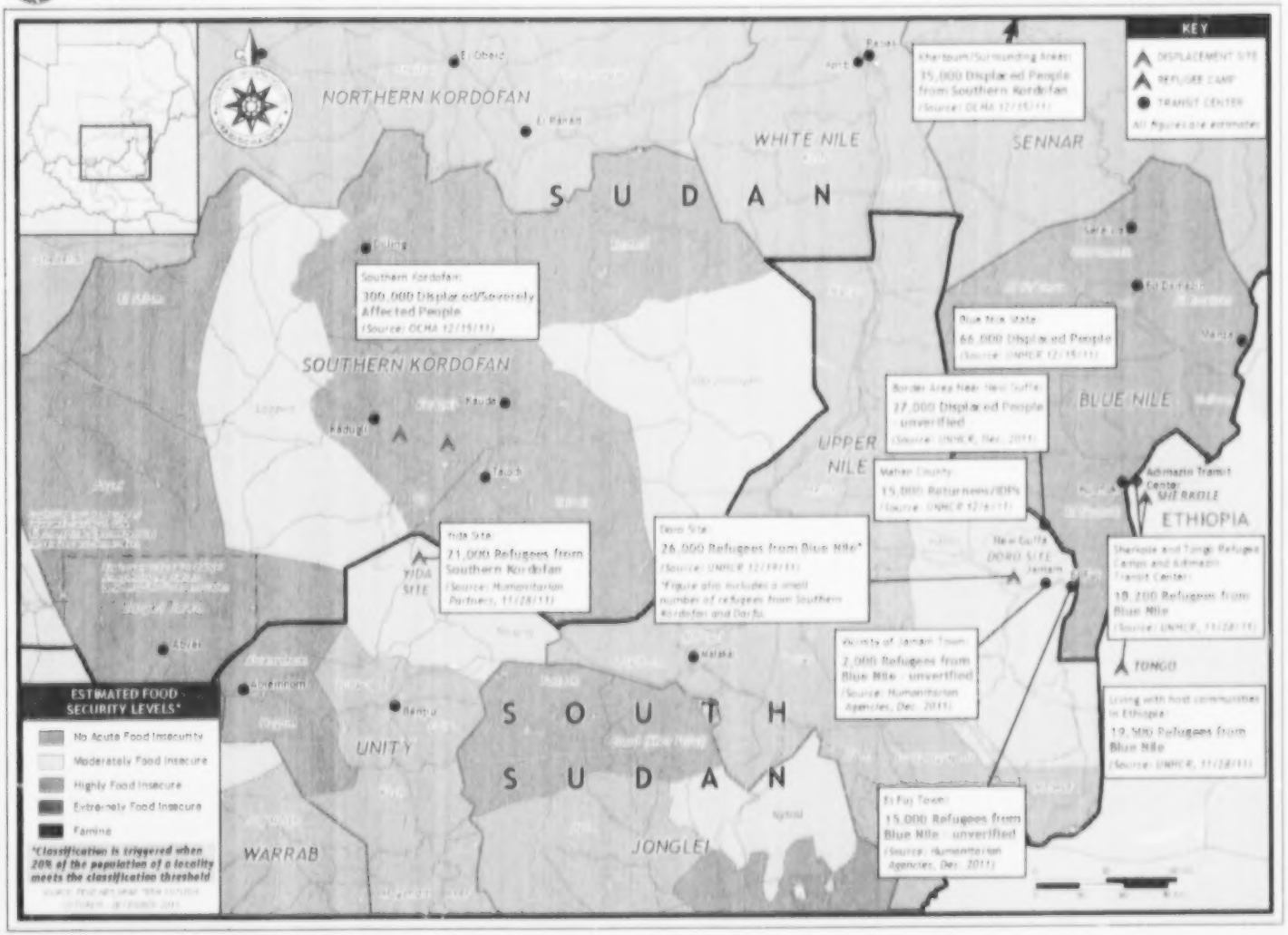
USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# TWO AREAS: PROJECTED FOOD INSECURITY, MARCH 2012



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# TWO AREAS: FOOD SECURITY AND DISPLACEMENT




S-2012-37